

Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium

Tuesday January 21 AMB 164 4:00 - 5:00 pm

The Pentagonal Tilings Problem

Terence Blows

Northern Arizona University

Abstract

The earliest work on the problem of tiling the plane with irregular pentagons dates back to 1918, and after a false claim in 1968, a complete solution involving an exhaustive search by computer was claimed in 2017.

Join this colloquium for an interactive session with lots of colorful pictures, to hear about monohedral tilings by polygons and the history of the Pentagonal Tilings Problem. You will be asked to find symmetries of various tilings (wallpaper groups) and to determine this-or-that as we go along. It may be helpful to bring pen and paper.

Refreshments at 3:45